

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 OFA-01 /080 W

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P R 232000Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7050

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, CA, UR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: CANADA CLOSES ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET FISHING FLEET

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT (ATTACHED STATISTICAL TABLE WILL BE
POUCHED) OF JULY 23 ENVIRONMENT CANADA NEWS RELEASE ANNOUNCING
SUBJECT ACTION:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES, THE HONOURABLE ROMEO
LEBLANC, TODAY ANNOUNCED THE CLOSURE OF CANADA'S ATLANTIC PORTS
TO SOVIET FISHING VESSELS.

THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET MADE MORE THAN 400 VISITS TO
CANADIAN ATLANTIC PORTS IN 1974.

SOVIET OVERFISHING OF QUOTAS SET BY ICNAF (INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES) IN AREAS OFF
CANADA'S EAST COAST BROUGHT ABOUT THE CANADIAN ACTION.

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MADE UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COASTAL FISHERIES PROTECTION ACT,

THE CLOSURE IS EFFECTIVE JULY 28.

"OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE SOVIET FLEET HAS CONSISTENTLY OVERFISHED CERTAIN OF ITS QUOTAS," MR. LEBLANC SAID.

"REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY CANADA TO BRING THESE PRACTICES TO A HALT HAVE MET WITH NO SEATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES."

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IS WRITING TO PREMIER KOSYGIN TO EMPHASIZE CANADA'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET FISHING PRACTICES. ALLAN J. MACEACHEN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED THIS CONCERN TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MONDAY, JULY 21, AND INFORMED HIM OF CANADA'S DECISION TO CLOSE ATLANTIC PORTS TO SOVIET FISHING VESSELS.

AMONG THE MAJOR INSTANCES OF SOVIET OVERFISHING HAS BEEN THE SOVIET FISHERING FOR CAPELIN. IN JUNE, 1974 CANADA MADE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO HALT THEIR CAPELIN FISHERY IN AN AREA NEAR NEWFOUNDLAND (ICNAF SUB-AREA 3) AFTER CANADIAN SURVEILLANCE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET FLEET HAD REACHED OR EXCEEDED ITS QUOTA. DESPITE CONTINUAL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS IN MOSCOW AND OTTAWA, THE SOVIET FLEET CONTINUED TO FISH AND BY CANADIAN ESTIMATES OVERAN ITS 85,000 METRIC TON QUOTA BY BETWEEN 67 AND 75 PERCENT.

IN 1975, THE SOVIET CAPELIN FLEET HAS SHOWN THE SAME DISREGARD FOR ICNAF REGULATIONS. THE SOVIET CAPELIN FISHERY NEAR NEWFOUNDLAND'S AVALON PENINSULA (ICNAF DIVISION 3L) HAS EXCEEDED ITS 28,000 METRIC TON QUOTA, ACCORDING TO CANADIAN ESTIMATES, BY MORE THAN 100 PER CENT. THE SOVIET CAPELIN FISHERY ON THE SOUTHERN GRAND BANKS (ICNAF DIVISION 3NO) HAS ALSO EXCEEDED ITS 62,000 METRIC TON QUOTA. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN PRESENTED WITH EVIDENCE OF A LARGE OVERRUN IN THE SILVER HAKE FISHERY NEAR SOUTHERN NOVA SOCTIA (ICNAF DIVISION 3X) IN 1974, AND OF SIGNIFICANT SOVIET OVERFISHING IN THE 1975 HERRING FISHERY IN THE GULF OF MAINE (ICNAF DIVISION 5Y).

THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN DISTURBED AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUING FAILURE BY THE USSR TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO CANADIAN LOBSTER GEAR IN INCIDENTS OFF NOVA SCOTIA IN JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER 1974. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES LAST NOVEMBER EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN WORKING TOWARDS A SPEEDY SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS, CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE STILL MET NO SATISFACTORY RESPONSE.

"WE HAVE USED EVERY METHOD AVAILABLE TO BRING ALL THESE MATTERS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES," MR. LEBLANC SAID, "INCLUDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN OTTAWA AND MOSCOW, AND DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS. ON QUOTA OVERRUNS, THEIR ONLY RESPONSE HAS BEEN TO QUESTION OUR EVIDENCE. WE KNOW THAT QUOTAS HAVE BEEN OVERFISHED, AND WE CANNOT LET THIS SITUATION CONTINUE."

"WE ARE ALSO LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE PRACTICES OF OTHER FLEETS," MR. LEBLANC SAID. "THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE FLEETS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CERTAIN VIOLATIONS, USING NETS WITH UNDERSIZE MESH, AND DISCARDING LARGE TONNAGES OF SPECIES THEY DON'T WANT WITHOUT KEEPING RECORDS AS REQUIRED BY ICNAF RULES. ATTEMPTS TO WORK THROUGH ICNAF TO HALT THESE PRACTICES HAVE FAILED. DIRECT APPROACHES HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE TO THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTS ON THESE MATTERS, UNLIKE THE CASE OF THE USSR. ACCORDINGLY, THE ATLANTIC PORTS WILL NOT BE CLOSED TO THEIR FISHING VESSELS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOW MAKING THESE SAME DIRECT APPROACHES TO THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTS, AND IF THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR FLEETS DOES NOT IMPROVE IMMEDIATELY OUR PORTS WILL BE CLOSED TO THEM AS WELL."

SOVIET ACCESS TO CANADA'S PACIFIC PORTS UNDER THE 1971 CANADA-USSR BILATERAL TREATY FOR THE WEST COAST (EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 1976) WILL NOT BE AFFECTED. ACCESS TO ATLANTIC PORTS WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY IN CASES OF DISTRESS AND EMERGENCY (FORCE MAJEURE).

". SOVIET VESSELS PROVIDE ONLY PART OF THE BUSINESS OUR PORTS GET FROM FOREIGN FLEETS. NEVERTHELESS, THE CESSATION OF SOVIET FISHING FLEET VISITS WILL HAVE SOME NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PORT REVENUE," MR. LEBLANC SAID. "THIS IS HOWEVER UNCLASSIFIED

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FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR OWN FISHING INDUSTRY TO THE ECONOMY AND BY THE NEED TO PROTECT THE FISH STOCKS OFF OUR COAST."

"WE DEEPLY REGRET THAT IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO CLOSE OUR ATLANTIC PORTS TO THE SOVIET FISHING VESSELS," MR. LEBLANC ADDED. "WE HOPE THAT THIS ACTION, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, WILL BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN SOVIET FISHING PRACTICES AND THE ASSURANCE OF ADHERENCE IN THE FUTURE TO ICNAF REGULATIONS. END QUOTE.

2. SEPTTEL ON LOS IMPLICATIONS FOLLOW.
JOHNSON

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